Claims

5   1.   A method of dispensing a plurality of treating compositions into a multistage automatic washing machine comprising operating a cartridge in the machine, the cartridge comprising at least two chambers, each chamber containing a treating composition, wherein the chambers are activated in a manner such that only one chamber is activated and one treating composition, is dosed during each stage of the washing
10   cycle.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein a plurality of cartridges are provided within the automatic washing machine.

15   3.   The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the chambers of the cartridge contain a plurality of treating compositions.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein each treating composition differs from the other treating compositions.
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5.   The method of any one of the preceding claims wherein the cartridge comprises 4 chambers.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the cartridge comprises a chamber suitable for
25   activation in a pre-rinse segment, which contains an enzymatic detergent treating composition.

7.   The method of claim 5, wherein the cartridge comprises a chamber suitable for activation in a wash segment, which contains a hypohalite/peroxygen detergent treating
30   composition.

8.   The method of claim 5, wherein the cartridge comprises a chamber suitable for activation in a rinse segment, which contains a rinse agent treating composition.

9.   The method of claim 5, wherein the cartridge comprises a chamber suitable for
5   activation in a treatment segment, which contains an anti-lime agent or a water treatment agent treating composition.

10. .   The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein in operation the cartridge interacts with a sensor within the automatic washing machine, the sensor sensing a
10   parameter of the automatic washing machine wash liquor and conveying the parameter back to the cartridge, influencing the operation of a cartridge chamber.

11.   The method of claim 10, wherein the sensor senses the hardness of the water in the automatic washing machine wash liquor.

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12.   The method of claim 10, wherein the sensor senses the soil loading of the water in the automatic dishwasher machine wash liquor.

13.   The method according to claim 10, wherein the sensor senses the amount to which
20   the automatic washing machine has been loaded with house ware to be washed.

14.   The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the automatic washing machine is an automatic dishwashing machine.

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